CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	DEQ air monitoring LUL
Proposed Implementation Date:	Spring 2008
Proponent:	Mt. Dept. Environmental Quality
Location:	NWNW section 28 T13N R3W
County:	Lewis & Clark
Trust:	Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality would like to obtain a Land Use License to construct operate and maintain an air quality monitoring site. The site would consist of approximately ¼ acre on the north side of an existing road adjacent to an existing power line. The site would be fenced and two equipment shelters ~8'X10' and two 10 meter meteorological towers would be constructed. The LUL would include year round access on the existing road as well as access for power and telephone service. The site would be used as part of a nationwide network of sites to track trends in ambient air pollutants.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The State Lessee and adjacent owners were contacted.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

None.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

!. Issuing the LUL as proposed.
2. Not issuing the LUL.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

None. The gentle terrain and small size of the project will limit impact.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

None. No surface water is present and no groundwater impacts are expected.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

None. The project would not appreciably impact air quality. Long term monitoring may provide some important data on air quality.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

None. No rare plants or types have been identified. The small size and standard LUL stipulations for reseeding disturbed areas will limit impacts.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

None. Deer, elk and antelope use the general area however the small size and location of the project will limit impacts.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

None. No T&E species were identified on the tract. Some bald eagle use is present to the east of the tract but no impacts are expected.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

None. There is an abandoned school site on the State tract dating to the 1930s but it is located well to the east of the project.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

None. The project is not located on a prominent feature. The project will be visible from the county road. The small size of the project and the very rural nature of the project area will limit impact.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

None. Currently the tract is being leased for grazing. The small size and location of the project would limit impact.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

None. The area is leased for grazing.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

None.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

None.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

None.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

None.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

None.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

None.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

None. The tract is currently accessible from the county road.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

None.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

None.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

None.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

If issued the LUL would provide an annual return of $200.00/year to the State. Some public benefit would be realized from longer term air quality monitoring.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Robert Vlahovich	**Date:**	2/7/08
	Title:	Spec. Uses coord.		

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

I have selected the alternative to issue the Land Use License for the National Core (air quality) Monitoring Site, as proposed by the MT Department of Environmental Quality.

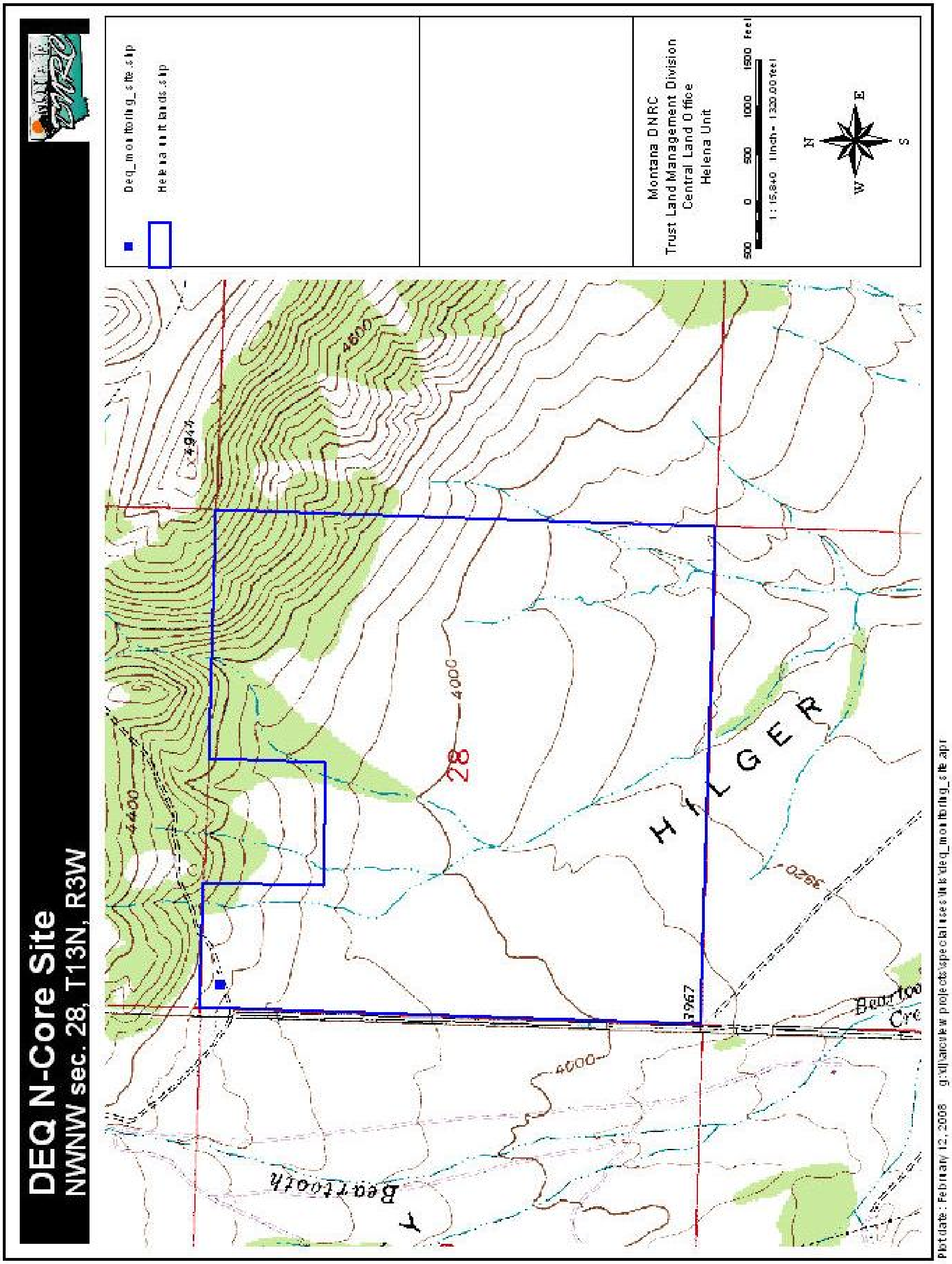
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The project is small in size, adjacent to a County road and will provide baseline air quality monitoring data for a nationwide analysis of conditions and trends.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA	[X]	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	D.J. Bakken
	Title:	Helena Unit Manager
Signature:	/s/ Darrel J. Bakken	**Date**: 2/12/2008


DEQ N-Core Site
NWNW sec. 28, T13N, R3W
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Montana DNRC
Trust Land Management Division
Central Land Office
Helena Unit
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Plot date: February 12, 2008